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NLRB CASE PRODUCTION IMPROVES IN FY 2004

The National Labor Relations Board issued 576 decisions during fiscal year 2004, which ended September 30. Of this total, 381 were unfair labor practice (C) cases, and 195 were representation (R) cases. This marks an increase in the Board's case production for the second straight year. In the previous fiscal year, the Board issued 543 decisions (387 C, 156 R), exceeding the 445 cases (288 C, 157 R) issued in FY 2002.

The Board's overall production for September was 115 (which includes 73 C cases and 42 R cases), a single-month total exceeded only twice in the past decade. The inventory of pending C cases was reduced from 459 at the beginning of the fiscal year to 441 at the end of the fiscal year. Total pending R cases dropped from 139 to 118.

In a statement, Chairman Robert J. Battista and Board Members Wilma B. Liebman, Peter C. Schaumber, Dennis P. Walsh, and Ronald Meisburg said:

We are pleased that case production is going in the right direction. We took steps to focus on overage cases, facilitated the processing of new cases, and increased emphasis on case streamlining procedures. At the same time we are mindful of the need to make even more progress in the coming year. The progress we have made is due in large part to the outstanding efforts of our dedicated staffs.

Although the Board was successful in the foregoing respects, it was not fully successful in meeting its FY 2004 goal under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The Board's goal was to issue all C cases pending at the Board for over 18 months and all R cases pending over 12 months. During FY 2004, the Board disposed of 127 GPRA C cases (leaving 207 pending), and 119 GPRA R cases (leaving 64 pending). The Board was hampered in regard to meeting its FY 2004 GPRA goal by the fact that it was down to four Members for four months (August 2003 until January 2004). The Board intends to do its utmost to fully achieve its GPRA goal for FY 2005.

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